



# Portland Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup Fact Sheet



## Planning for Cleanup

Learn about the draft cleanup alternatives for the Portland Harbor Superfund site and how you can have a say in how cleanup moves forward!

### Why Do We Need to Cleanup Portland Harbor?

Eating resident fish, such as, bass, carp and catfish from the waters of the Portland Harbor site poses a significant health risk. Additionally, contamination from the site poses an unacceptable ecological risk for wildlife and fish.

### How Do We Cleanup Portland Harbor?

The vision for the Portland Harbor Cleanup is:

- Cleaning up contaminated sediment and reducing sources of pollution to reduce the risk for people eating resident fish from the Lower Willamette River and for wildlife and fish living in or near the River.
- Cleanup actions that will provide better habitat for wildlife and fish and are coordinated with habitat restoration projects in the lower Willamette River.
- Cleanup actions that will support additional public access areas and encourage more recreation and use of the River.
- A cleaner waterway in the future that continues to support navigation, industry, and commerce, including jobs in Portland Harbor.

Portland Harbor is big, complex, and dynamic. Portland Harbor and the surrounding land are used in many different ways creating different impacts. With this complexity, we will need a range of methods to solve the problem. On March 30, 2012, the Lower Willamette Group

submitted a draft Feasibility Study to EPA to help EPA formulate a plan to cleanup Portland Harbor.

### **How is Contaminated Sediment Cleaned Up?**

Contaminated sediment can be dug up (“dredging”), covered with clean soil (“capping”), treated in place (“in-situ treatment”), or allowed to naturally be covered by cleaner upriver sediments moving into the Lower Willamette River (“natural recovery”). The alternatives range from a “no action” alternative (Alternative A) to the most active removal alternative (Alternative G). All the alternatives presented in the draft Feasibility Study include a combination of all the cleanup options listed above, but some have more emphasis on removal of the contaminated sediments (‘r’) while other have more emphasis on leaving it in the river (‘i’).

### **How You Can Get Involved?**

A lot is at stake!

- Cleanup of the waterway will take time, money, and patience – the options include tradeoffs that will spur discussion and will be evaluated before a specified cleanup plan is proposed by EPA.
- Your voice, as a member of the community and this region, is critical to help make decisions about the Portland Harbor Cleanup.
- It’s time to learn more, ask questions, provide your ideas now, and prepare to review the proposed cleanup.
- Things to think about: What do you think are the most important considerations for evaluating cleanup alternatives? How would you like to be able to use the river in the future? What are your concerns about how the cleanup might impact you or your community?

You can view the draft Feasibility Study at the Multnomah

### **ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION**

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.)  
St John's Community Center  
8427 N. Central St., Portland, Oregon

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(Open House 12:30 to 1 p.m.)  
Portland Building Auditorium  
1120 SW 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Portland, Oregon

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.)  
June Key Delta Community Center  
5940 N. Albina Street, Portland, Oregon

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.)  
Ecotrust Building- Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center  
721 NW Ninth Avenue, Portland, Oregon

regulations., Then there are five balancing criteria: 1) long-term effectiveness and permanence, 2) reducing toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment, 3) short-term effectiveness, 4) ability to be implemented, and 5) cost.

**Two additional criterion are considered by EPA: State and public acceptance, so your input is needed!**

EPA and the Lower Willamette Group will hold a series of Information Sessions to introduce the feasibility study to the public.

***Invitation to attend Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings:*** The Portland Harbor CAG meets the second Wednesday of every month from 6 PM to 8 PM at the BES Water Lab: 6543 North Burlington, Portland. The meetings are open to the public and a wide range of topics related to the site are discussed. To receive meeting notifications, please contact Alanna Conley, see *How Can I Get More Information?*, below.

## **What Happens Next?**

***Review the Draft Feasibility Study:*** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing the draft Feasibility Study submitted by the Lower Willamette Group. EPA's review will likely take 4-6 months, after which EPA will provide comments to the Lower Willamette Group.

***Propose Preferred Cleanup Option:*** Once the Feasibility Study is complete enough, EPA will write a Proposed Plan, which summarizes the cleanup alternatives and proposes a preferred course of action. Public comments will be solicited for the Proposed Plan. Your input to the proposed plan will be very important in selecting the best course of action. EPA expects to have this plan available for public comment in late 2013.

***Select Cleanup Option:*** After carefully considering public input on the Proposed Plan, EPA will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for Portland Harbor. After the decision is final, EPA negotiates with potentially responsible parties to design and construct the selected remedy.

## **How Can I Get More Information?**

Visit EPA at: [www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor](http://www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor)

Contact EPA: Comments and questions can be directed to...

EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator  
Alanna Conley, 503-326-6831 or [conley.alanna@epa.gov](mailto:conley.alanna@epa.gov)

EPA's Project Managers  
Chip Humphrey, 503-326-2678 or [humphrey.chip@epa.gov](mailto:humphrey.chip@epa.gov)  
Kristine Koch, 206-553-6705 or [koch.kristine@epa.gov](mailto:koch.kristine@epa.gov)

Visit Portland Harbor CAG at: [www.portlandharborcag.info/](http://www.portlandharborcag.info/)